

The Open City Guidebook

Exploring the arts and culture in Liverpool



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INTRODUCTION

The city of Liverpool is home to dozens of first-rate theatres, museums, art festivals and galleries that showcase an incredible range of exhibitions. Since it hosted the European Capital of Culture in 2008, Liverpool has become a world-famous cultural destination, attracting art-lovers from around the globe. For local residents and community groups, there are very few other cities in the UK that offer such a wealth of cultural opportunities on their doorstep.

This guidebook is designed to support community groups that want to take advantage of the exciting range of cultural performances, exhibitions and events that take place in Liverpool every year. As community groups are busy fulfilling their aims and objectives, they often have limited time to research what is happening in the city's arts venues, plan trips or arrange group tickets for performances. This guidebook is intended to support such groups with a directory of the main cultural venues in the city, contact details for booking tickets and tours, and a list of online resources.

Please note that all information in this guidebook was correct at the time of compilation (March 2011), and that some contact details may change over time.

THE OPEN CITY PROJECT

The idea for this guidebook came from the Open City project – an audience development scheme that was set up by Liverpool's main arts organisations to encourage local people to explore the arts scene on their doorstep. The Open City project linked local community groups with trained volunteers who devised a programme of visits to Liverpool's arts and cultural venues. It was managed by the North West's audience development agency, All About Audiences (AAA), and was run by Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC).

LIVERPOOL ARTS REGENERATION CONSORTIUM

LARC is made up of eight of the leading cultural institutions in Liverpool: The Bluecoat, FACT, Liverpool Biennial, Everyman & Playhouse, National Museums Liverpool, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, TATE Liverpool and Unity Theatre. This Consortium has come together in a unique collaboration to ensure that culture plays a key role in the regeneration of Liverpool and to establish Liverpool as a world-class creative city.

DIRECTORY OF VENUES

On the following pages you will find details of all the LARC venues in Liverpool. Many of these venues are free, whereas others may offer reduced ticket prices for community group bookings. To find out more about group bookings, guided tours, talks, workshops and other services at each venue, please get in touch with the contact person listed under each venue.

WORLD MUSEUM LIVERPOOL

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML)

World Museum Liverpool
William Brown Street
Liverpool
L3 8EN

Tel: 0151 478 4393

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml

NML Head Office:

127 Dale Street,

Liverpool

L2 2JH

Tel: 0151 207 0001

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

World Museum combines historic treasures from across the globe, from the Ancient Egypt gallery to historic zoological and botanical exhibits. The Museum also hosts a number of changing exhibitions on contemporary culture such as music and football.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor

Communities Worker - Families and Adults

National Museums Liverpool

Tel: 0151 478 4977

Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



WALKER ART GALLERY

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML).

Walker Art Gallery
William Brown Street
Liverpool
L3 8EL

Tel: 0151 478 4199

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/walker

NML Head Office:

127 Dale Street

Liverpool

L2 2JH

0151 207 0001

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

The Walker Art Gallery holds one of the finest collections of fine and decorative art in Europe. Discover over six centuries of art at the national gallery of the north.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor

Communities Worker - Families and Adults

National Museums Liverpool

Tel: 0151 478 4977

Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



MERSEYSIDE MARITIME MUSEUM

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML)

Maritime Museum
Albert Dock
Liverpool
L3 4AQ

Tel: 0151 478 4499

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime

NML Head Office:
127 Dale Street
Liverpool
L2 2JH

Tel: 0151 207 0001

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

Discover Liverpool's central role in centuries at sea as the gateway to the new world. Highlights include a poignant gallery about tragedies such as the Titanic, ship models and the Life at Sea display, telling the story of the merchant navy.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor

Communities Worker - Families and Adults

National Museums Liverpool

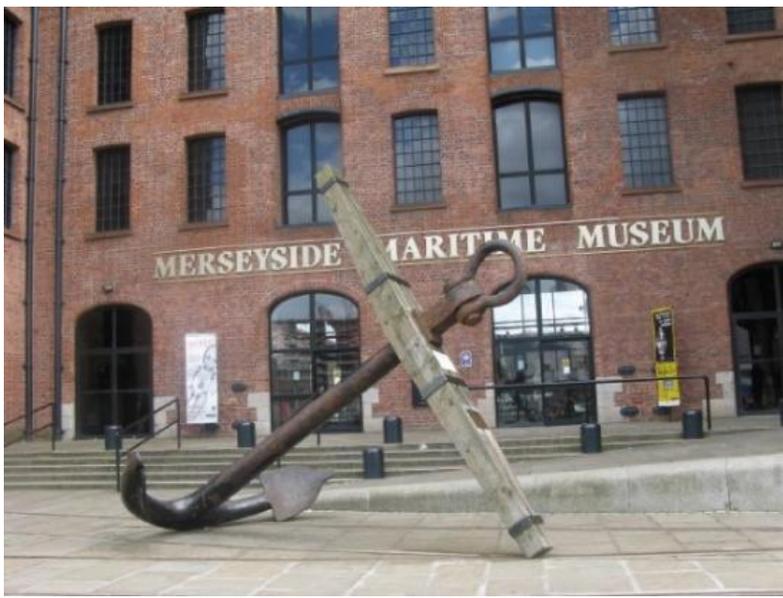
Tel: 0151 478 4977

Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML)

International Slavery Museum
Dock Traffic Office
Albert Dock
Liverpool L3 4AX
Tel: 0151 478 4499

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism

NML Head Office:
127 Dale Street
Liverpool
L2 2JH
Tel: 0151 207 0001

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

The International Slavery Museum explores both the historical and contemporary aspects of slavery, addressing the many legacies of the slave trade and telling stories of bravery and rebellion amongst the enslaved people.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor
Communities Worker - Families and Adults
National Museums Liverpool
Tel: 0151 478 4977
Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



LADY LEVER ART GALLERY

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML)

Lady Lever Art Gallery
Port Sunlight Village
Wirral
CH6 5EQ

Tel: 0151 478 4136

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ladylever

NML Head Office:

127 Dale Street
Liverpool

L2 2JH

Tel: 0151 207 0001

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

One of the most beautiful collections of fine and decorative arts in the UK, including British 18th and 19th century painting and furniture, Wedgwood and Chinese porcelain displays.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor

Communities Worker - Families and Adults

National Museums Liverpool

Tel: 0151 478 4977

Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



SUDLEY HOUSE

This venue is part of National Museums Liverpool (NML)

Sudley House

**Mossley Hill Road
Aigburth
Liverpool
L18 8BX
0151 724 3245**

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/sudley

NML Head Office:

**127 Dale Street
Liverpool
L2 2JH
0151 207 0001**

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Description of venue:

Sudley House is the only place you can see the art collection of a Victorian merchant in its original setting.

Contact:

Kenn Taylor

Communities Worker - Families and Adults

National Museums Liverpool

Tel: 0151 478 4977

Email: Kenn.Taylor@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Offers:

National Museums Liverpool offers a range of possible tours, talks and activity programmes to community groups. Please contact Kenn Taylor (above) or visit the website (www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) to find out more.

Please note all NML venues are **free**.



TATE LIVERPOOL

Albert Dock
Liverpool
L3 4BB
0151 702 7400
www.tate.org.uk/liverpool

Description of venue:

Tate Liverpool presents displays of work from the Tate collection alongside special exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. A visit to Tate Liverpool's collection is FREE of charge. The special exhibition programme, presented on the Gallery's fourth floor, brings together works from national and international collections, both public and private. Since the gallery opened in 1988, Tate Liverpool has presented over 150 different exhibitions and collection displays of work by hundreds of different artists, some seen for the first time in the UK at Tate Liverpool.

Group Contact:

Carly Townsend
Marketing Assistant
Email: Carly.townsend@tate.org.uk
Tel: 0151 702 7441 (direct line)

Offers:

Tate Liverpool may sometimes offer groups different services, such as talks and guided tours, subject to staff availability, group size and the nature of the exhibition. Discounted entry is sometimes available for groups, depending on the exhibition programme. Please contact Carly Townsend (above) for further details.



FACT

FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology)

88 Wood Street

Liverpool

L1 4DQ

Tel: 0151 707 4450 (Gallery Ticket & Information)

Tel: 0151 707 7444 (Office Reception)

www.fact.co.uk

Description of venue:

FACT, the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, is the UK's leading organisation for commissioning, exhibiting, promoting and supporting artists' work and innovation in the fields of film, video, and new media. Originally founded in 1988, FACT's mission was to inspire and promote the artistic significance of film, video and new media. Twenty years on, and still the UK's primary exponent of innovative digital media, our aim is to pioneer new forms of artistic and social interaction with emerging creativity.

Contact:

Joan Burnett

Visitor Services Manager

FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology)

88 Wood Street

Liverpool, L1 4DQ

Email: joan.burnett@fact.co.uk

Tel: 0151 707 4464

Offers:

FACT may be able to offer a range of services for your group, such as guided tours and talks to facilitate your group visit, but these may differ according to time of day and the current exhibition. FACT exhibitions are free.



THE BLUECOAT

The Bluecoat

School Lane

Liverpool

L1 3BX

Tel: 0151 702 5324 (Tickets and Information Desk)

www.thebluecoat.org.uk

Description of venue:

The Bluecoat, in the heart of Liverpool's bustling City Centre, is a honeycomb of gardens and galleries, indoor and outdoor performance spaces, shops and places to eat and for your family to explore. The Bluecoat is well loved both as a building of huge historical importance and a place to experience visual art, music, literature, dance and live art.

Contacts:

Phil Olsen

Marketing & Audience Development Officer

phil.o@thebluecoat.org.uk Tel: 0151 702 7770

Gul Turner

Information Assistant

info@thebluecoat.org.uk Tel: 0151 702 5324

Offers:

The Bluecoat may be able to offer some services for your group visit, such as educational workshops, tours and talks with the artists, but these may differ according to time of day, group size and the current exhibition. The Bluecoat also offers free gallery tours every Saturday at 2pm.



UNITY THEATRE

1 Hope Place

Liverpool

L1 9BG

Tel: 0844 873 2888 (Ticket Box Office)

Tel: 0151 709 6502 (Administration).

www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

Description of venue:

Unity Theatre today is one of the best-loved theatres in Liverpool. It has a reputation for staging innovative, high quality work in a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere and has an excellent track record in encouraging new writing and supporting new companies.

Contact:

Rachael Treacher

Marketing and Communications Officer

rachaeltreacher@unitytheatre.co.uk Tel: 0151 702 7366

Offers:

Group offers include: buy 10 tickets and get the 11th free. To find out about possible pre- or post-show talks with cast members, contact The Unity directly.



LIVERPOOL BIENNIAL **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Offices:

**Liverpool Biennial
New Bird Street
Liverpool
L1 0BW**

Postal address:

**55 Jordan Street
PO BOX 1200
Liverpool
L69**

1XB

Tel: 0151 709 7444 (Reception)

Website: www.biennial.com

Description of organisation:

Liverpool Biennial is one of the most important public art agencies in the North West and the UK's contemporary art biennial, the largest contemporary art festival in the nation. It takes place for ten weeks every two years. The next Festival will run from 15 September – 25 November 2012. The Liverpool Biennial is not associated with one fixed venue but has art works displayed throughout Liverpool. Biennial staff can support visits to the art works and welcome the groups to the Biennial offices. For a list of Liverpool Biennial art works still on display please contact Antony Pickthall.

Contact:

Antony Pickthall

Head of Marketing

antony@biennial.com Tel: 0151 709 7444

Offers:

To find out if there are any offers available for your group visit, such as guided tours to artwork across the Merseyside region, or before- and after-visit talks, please contact Antony Pickthall or Franny George directly.

Please note, Liverpool Biennial's art installations are **free** to the public.



Do Ho Suh, *Bridging Home*, 2010

Image courtesy of Liverpool Biennial
2010

Photo taken by Alex Wolkowicz

LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall,
Hope St,
Liverpool
L1 9BP

Reception: 0151 210 2895

Box Office: 0151 709 3789

Website: www.liverpoolphil.com

Description of venue:

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall presents on average 300 concerts, events and films, attended by approximately 300,000 people per annum. The venue has an illustrious tradition of bringing the top names from rock, jazz, world, classical and contemporary music to Liverpool.

Contact:

Dawn Williams

Group Sales Officer

Email: Dawn.williams@liverpoolphil.com Direct Tel: 0151 210 2918

Offers:

To find out if there are any offers available for your group visit, please contact Dawn Williams directly in Group Bookings.



Liverpool Everyman

This venue is part of the Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust. Please note that the Everyman is scheduled for redevelopment between 2011 and 2013.

Liverpool Everyman
Hope Street
Liverpool, L1 9HB

Everyman & Playhouse offices:
13 Hope Street
Liverpool L1 9HB

Tel: 0151 709 4776 (Box Office)
Tel: 0151 708 3700 (Office Reception)
www.everymanplayhouse.com

Description of venue:

In 1999, the Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust was formed to create a joint management for the city's two major producing theatres: the Everyman theatre and the Playhouse. The Trust's mission is to be an engine for creative excellence, artistic adventure, and audience involvement; firmly rooted in the community, yet both national and international in scope and ambition. The Everyman, founded in 1964 in a converted chapel, built a reputation for contemporary, politically-engaged work with deep local roots. At the Everyman, the in-house programme centres on new writing, primarily that emerging from an extraordinary new generation of playwriting talent in the city.

Contacts:

Louise Sutton (Group Sales Officer)
Direct Line 0151 708 3733
E-mail: l.sutton@everymanplayhouse.com

Danielle Piercy (Outreach Assistant – for workshops, talks, tours, etc.)
Direct Line: 0151 706 9147
Email: d.piercy@everymanplayhouse.com

Emma Smith (Education Coordinator)
Direct Line: 0151 706 9111
Email: e.smith@everymanplayhouse.com

Offers:

The Everyman and Playhouse Theatres may be able to arrange discounted group tickets, educational workshops, talks, backstage tours, subject to capacity, and ticket and staff availability.

Also, check what's on as part of the "Theatre For All" programme:
www.everymanplayhouse.com/community/activities-events.asp

Liverpool Playhouse

This venue is part of the Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust.

Liverpool Playhouse
Williamson Square
Liverpool, L1 1EL

Everyman & Playhouse offices:
13 Hope Street
Liverpool L1 9HB

Tel: 0151 709 4776 (Box Office)
Tel: 0151 708 3700 (Office Reception)
www.everymanplayhouse.com

Description of venue:

In 1999, the Liverpool and Merseyside Theatres Trust was formed to create a joint management for the city's two major producing theatres: the Everyman theatre and the Playhouse. Built in 1866 as the Star Music Hall, the Liverpool Playhouse became a full-time repertory theatre in 1911. Since 2004 the Playhouse, like the Everyman, has been predominantly a producing theatre. More stately than the Everyman, yet intimate in its own way, the Playhouse has been the home of classic drama, from ancient to modern, presented with the highest production values

Contacts:

Louise Sutton (Group Sales Officer)
Direct Line 0151 708 3733
E-mail: l.sutton@everymanplayhouse.com

Danielle Piercy (Outreach Assistant – for workshops, talks, tours, etc.)
Direct Line: 0151 706 9147
Email: d.piercy@everymanplayhouse.com

Emma Smith (Education Coordinator)
Direct Line: 0151 706 9111
Email: e.smith@everymanplayhouse.com

Offers:

The Everyman and Playhouse Theatres may be able to arrange some of the following offers, subject to capacity, and ticket and staff availability: discounted group tickets, educational workshops, talks, backstage tours.

Also, check what's on as part of the "Theatre For All" programme:
www.everymanplayhouse.com/community/activities-events.asp

RESOURCES & LINKS:

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS:

- **LCVS – Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services**
Liverpool-based charity that offers training, funding advice and organisational support to community groups.
www.lcvs.org.uk

ARTS & CULTURE LINKS:

- **All About Audiences (AAA)**
All About Audiences is the audience development agency for the North West. AAA works with arts and cultural organisations to provide consultancy, research and marketing services and help venues attract new audiences. www.allaboutaudiences.com
- **Art in Liverpool**
Art in Liverpool is the essential all-in-one website for people who want to know instantly what's going on in Liverpool's cultural scene. The site provides comprehensive listings for the city's arts events, blogs, jobs and volunteering classifieds, reviews and much more. www.artinliverpool.com
- **Arts Council England (North West)**
Arts Council England champions artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. The Council supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, carnival to crafts.
www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions/north-west/
- **Culturepool**
Culturepool brings people together to share their experience of Liverpool's cultural events. They regularly visit galleries, theatres and arts venues throughout the city and discuss the experience. www.culturepool.org.uk
- **Everyman & Playhouse Theatres – Theatre for Everyone**
The Everyman and Playhouse theatres' Community Department offers an inclusive programme of activities that reach out to the community. Activities include playreading sessions for over 50s, a young writers' programme and youth theatre for younger participants, and various other community engagement activities.
www.everymanplayhouse.com/Content/Home/GetInvolved.aspx
- **I Value The Arts**
Useful website with resources and materials for the campaign to support the arts and cultural activities in the UK. www.ivaluethearts.org.uk

- **Kin2Kin**
Kin2Kin is a networking website for artistic and creative practitioners in Merseyside that provides opportunities to connect with other creative people and projects, share ideas, access new contacts, and arts news and information. www.kin2.kin.co.uk
- **Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC)**
LARC is an alliance of eight of the city's major cultural organizations. It was set up to play a leading role in helping regenerate Merseyside. www.larc.uk.com
- **Liverpool Centre for Arts Development (LCAD)**
Liverpool Centre for Arts Development is a provider of Arts and Creative Industries training and development. Located in the city centre, LCAD target their provision at local communities. www.lcad.org.uk
- **Liverpool Community Cultural Champions**
The Cultural Champions is an initiative run by the City Council's department for culture to raise awareness of the benefits of participating with the arts. The five Cultural Champions represent different areas of the city and regularly post arts reviews on the Champions blog. <http://liverpoolculturalchampions.wordpress.com>
- **Open Culture**
Open Culture aims to increase people's engagement with the arts, develop audiences and boost the creative economy. It offers project management, consultancy and coaching services across the arts and produces events such as Light Night and Long Night. www.culture.org.uk
- **Visit Liverpool**
Tourism website listing the main arts venues and events in the city. www.visitliverpool.com

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Liverpool Biennial**
Liverpool Biennial occasionally offers volunteering opportunities, particularly during the busy festival period. For up-to-date information, search for 'volunteering' on the website: www.biennial.com.
- **The Bluecoat – Volunteering**
The Bluecoat offers opportunities for volunteers who are passionate about art, music, dance and literature. Application packs are available from HR Department, the Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX.
Email: recruitment@thebluecoat.org.uk.
www.thebluecoat.org.uk/content/volunteering

- **National Museums Liverpool - Volunteering**
Volunteering with NML can involve working with collections behind the scenes or on projects at any of the city's seven venues.
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/volunteers
- **Tate Liverpool – Volunteering**
Tate Liverpool occasionally offers volunteering opportunities. Email visiting.liverpool@tate.org.uk to enquire.
- **The Unity Theatre – Volunteering**
The Unity offers some volunteering opportunities in the Front Of House services. Those interested should contact Chris Hennessy on 0151 702 7360, email: chrishennessy@unitytheatre.co.uk
- **Volunteer Centre Liverpool**
A one-stop resource for information, advice and guidance on all aspects of volunteering issues, both for potential volunteers and community groups.
www.volunteercentreliverpool.org.uk
- **Volunteering Liverpool**
A new online database for volunteers and organizations in the Merseyside area. Developed as a partnership between the Volunteer Centre Liverpool, Liverpool Guild of Students, Liverpool Hope University and Liverpool Community College. www.volunteeringliverpool.org.uk

TRANSPORT:

- **Merseytravel**
Merseytravel is a useful transport site with local bus and train information, including ticket prices and timetables for getting around Merseyside.
www.merseytravel.gov.uk